



PUBLIC HEALTH

**ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER WASHINGTON**

State Board of Health Update on
West Nile Virus
May 12, 2004



Mosquito-borne Disease Response Plan

Washington State

*Washington State Department of Health
response to threats of arbovirus, such as
West Nile virus transmitted to humans
by mosquitoes.*

December 2003 Edition

Response Plan Changes

- “Alert Levels” replace risk categories
- Agencies’ roles and responsibilities better defined
- Recommended actions for parties are more clearly presented

Surveillance Activities

- Dead bird testing continued
- Mosquito trapping, identification, testing continuing; also looking for WNV in mosquitoes
- Symptomatic horse testing available at WSU

Surveillance Activities

- DOH Public Health Laboratories ready to perform diagnostic testing on human specimens for mosquito-borne diseases
 - Capability developed May 2003
 - More than 250 specimens tested in 2003

Education Efforts

- WNV electronic newsletter
- WNV Resource Guide
- DOH Web site enhanced
- WNV Communication Plan in place
- Guidelines for clinical management, testing, reporting

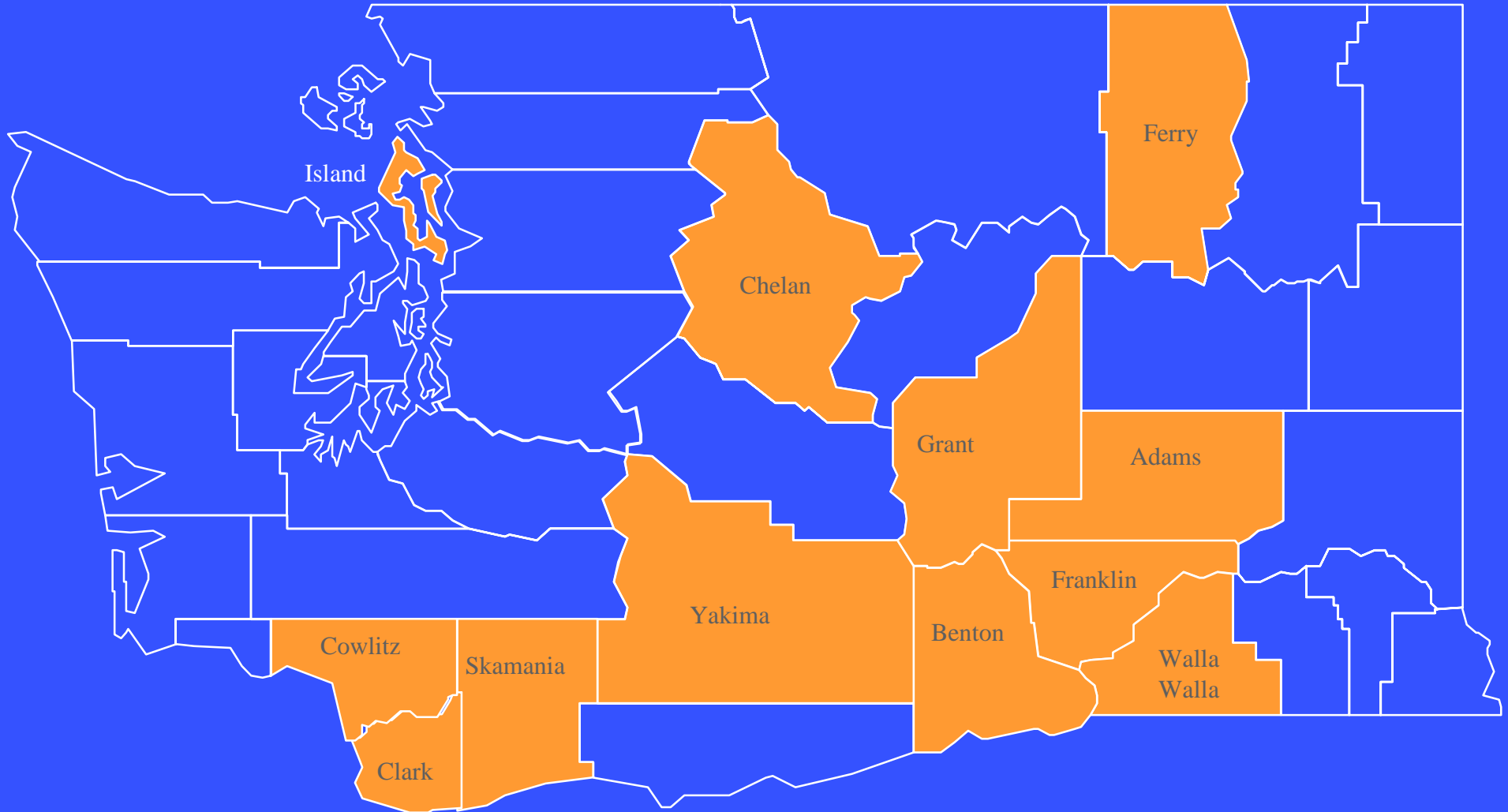
Education Efforts

- Statewide presentations, videos, CD rom
- Brochures, envelope stuffers, information on using repellent available (English & Spanish)
- Adding additional languages for brochures
- PSAs (English & Spanish) to more than 100 radio stations around the state

Mosquito Control Districts

- Formed locally by proclamation or petition
- Funded by local assessment
- Two new districts in last two years

Mosquito Control Districts



Mosquito Control Districts

- Expansion considered by at least two districts
- A few others known to be investigating forming districts
- Some entities doing mosquito control in the absence of districts
- DOH encourages creating districts

Does Mosquito Control Reduce Risk?

- Information is anecdotal or intuitive
- Cook County, IL experience with larval mosquito control
- Colorado results with adult mosquito control

Does Mosquito Control Reduce Risk?

- Larvae control started early and continued are effective in reducing mosquito populations
- Integrated programs are most effective
 - Planning
 - Education
 - Communication
 - Personal protection
 - Control



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